

## **Selected Collections Relating to Disability in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress**

Below is a selected list of collections in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress that contain materials related to persons with disabilities, or organizations and individuals who worked with or on behalf of those with physical or mental disabilities. Links are provided to the Library of Congress online catalog record for the collection, as well as online collection finding aids when available. In many cases the material relevant to disability issues will not be identified specifically as to location within a collection, and may be filed among larger categories of material. Disabilities may also be described in collection material with terminology no longer in current use.

For more information about these collections, or other collections in the Manuscript Division, contact the Manuscript Division at:

Manuscript Division  
Library of Congress  
101 Independence Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20540-4680

Reading Room: (202) 707-5387  
<https://www.loc.gov/rr/mss/>

Reference Questions, Manuscript Division: [Ask a Librarian](#)

[Manuscript Division Finding Aids Online](#)

[Collections with manuscripts available online](#)

[Library of Congress online catalog](#)

## INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES



### **Barton, Clara (1821-1912)**

Clara Barton, a nurse, educator, and lecturer and founder of the American Red Cross, experienced episodes of intense depression. Barton's diaries from the 1850s particularly document these episodes, which she kept at bay largely through work. The Clara Barton Papers are available [online](#).

[LC catalog record](#)

Collection finding aid available in [XML](#) and [PDF](#) format

[Link to image](#)

### **Gresham, LeRoy Wiley (1847-1865)**

A broken leg in childhood disabled LeRoy Wiley Gresham, and lead to a host of other health problems that kept the teenager largely confined to his home in Macon, Georgia during the Civil War. Daily diary entries record the state of Gresham's often precarious health and the remedies used to treat the symptoms, as well as the ways in which Gresham eagerly followed war news and remained an active participant within his family circle and community. The Gresham Family material, which is part of the Lewis H. Machen Family Papers, is available [online](#).

[LC catalog record](#)

Collection finding aid available in [XML](#) and [PDF](#) format



[Link to image](#)



### **Keller, Helen (1880-1968)**

Blind and deaf as a result of a childhood illness, Helen Keller became an author and lecturer. Keller's papers at the Library of Congress contain photographs, printed matter, and correspondence, the bulk of which consists of files of Swedenborgian minister Paul Sperry relating to the publication of Keller's book, *My Religion*.

Researchers interested in Helen Keller should also consult the Alexander Graham Bell Family Papers and Grover Cleveland Papers for Keller correspondence.

#### [LC catalog record](#)

Collection finding aid available in [XML](#) and [PDF](#) format

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### **Logan, Joshua (1908-1988)**

The papers of Joshua Logan document his career as a producer, director, and author of theatrical, musical, and motion picture productions. A group of files labeled "mental health" record his struggle with manic depression and his involvement with Merrill Moore, a noted psychiatrist.

#### [LC catalog record](#)

Collection finding aid available in [XML](#) and [PDF](#) format

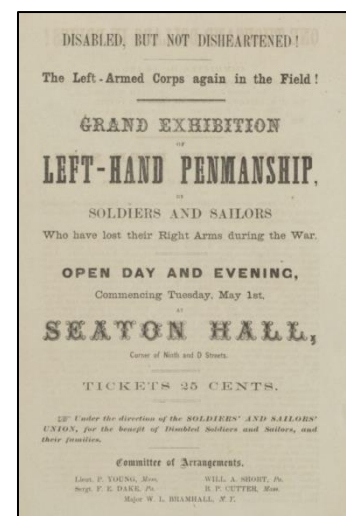
## **MILITARY-RELATED DISABILITIES**

### **Bourne, Wm. Oland (1819-1901)**

As editor of the periodical *The Soldier's Friend*, Bourne sponsored a contest in 1865-1866 in which Union soldiers and sailors who lost their right arms by disability or amputation during the Civil War were invited to submit samples of penmanship using their left hands. The contest, which awarded a total of \$1,000 in prizes for the winning entries, was followed in 1867 by a second contest, which awarded \$500 in prizes. The collection includes promotional literature as well as many of the left-hand penmanship entries submitted by veterans. The Bourne Papers are available [online](#).

#### [LC catalog record](#)

Collection finding aid available in [XML](#) and [PDF](#) format



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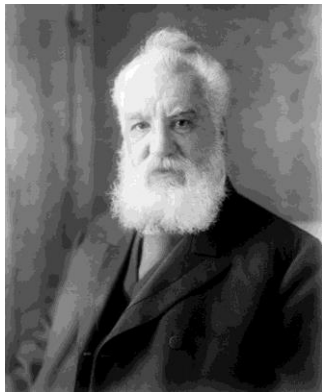
**Crawford, Rebekah (1845-1934)**

Scrapbooks in the papers of educator, social worker, and World War I relief worker Rebekah Crawford document her efforts to raise funds for artificial limbs for 150 impoverished Italian soldiers. Crawford's records are contained within the Rebekah Crawford and Linda Clarke-Smith Papers.

[LC catalog record](#)

Collection finding aid available in [XML](#) and [PDF](#) format

## EDUCATION

**Bell, Alexander Graham (1847-1922)**

As both the son and husband of deaf women, Alexander Graham Bell's interest in education for and communication of the deaf is reflected in the Alexander Graham Bell Family Papers. Bell's father was a proponent of visible speech, and Bell began his career teaching deaf students. His interest in communication with the deaf led to experiments in transmitting sound, resulting in his invention of the telephone. Deaf education and communication, and Bell's career as an inventor are documented in the collection. Selections of the Alexander Graham Bell Family Papers are available [online](#).

[Link to image](#)

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**Campbell, Sir Francis Joseph (1834-1914)**

The papers of this American-born musician, educator, and advocate for the blind include materials relating to his work for the education of the blind, as well as some correspondence written in Braille.

[LC catalog record](#)

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**Gallaudet Family**

The T.H. Gallaudet and Edward Miner Gallaudet Papers contain material relating to the Gallaudets, father and son, and their founding roles in the education of the deaf.

[LC catalog record](#)

Collection finding aid available in [XML](#) and [PDF](#) format

**Grosvenor, Elsie May Bell and Gilbert H. Grosvenor**

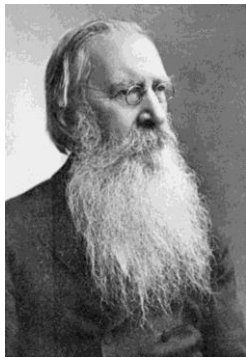
Elsie May Bell (1878-1964), the daughter of Alexander Graham Bell and Mabel Hubbard Bell, married Gilbert Hovey Grosvenor (1875-1966), president of the National Geographic Society. The personal files of Elsie Grosvenor and especially Gilbert H. Grosvenor in the Grosvenor Family Papers document their support of the Clarke School for the Deaf, Northampton, Mass.

[LC catalog record](#)

Collection finding aid available in [XML](#) and [PDF](#) format



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**Hubbard, Gardiner G. (1822-1874)**

Materials in the Hubbard Family Papers document Gardiner G. Hubbard's (father-in-law of Alexander Graham Bell) interest in the education of the deaf, including his efforts to establish a school that would teach lip reading and speech to deaf children.

[LC catalog record](#)

Collection finding aid available in [XML](#) and [PDF](#) format

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**National Library for the Blind (U.S.) Records**

This collection documents a national library established in 1911 that provided library services to the blind. It also includes materials relating to library director Etta Josselyn Giffin's pioneering role in the field.

[LC catalog record](#)

Collection finding aid available in the Manuscript Reading Room, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## ADVOCATES

### **Eisenbud, Merrill (1915-1997)**

As the founding director of the Health and Safety Laboratory of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) Eisenbud's work centered on environmental radiation and beryllium disease. A high rate of severe lung disease leading to disability or death was noted among workers in beryllium extraction plants and in the immediate neighborhoods of the plants. The papers contain data on air samples, medical case notes and studies, reports, articles, and substantive correspondence between scientists working on beryllium disease.

#### [LC catalog record](#)

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### **Gertz, Elmer (1906-2000)**

In addition to his activities as a lawyer, author, and manuscript collector, Elmer Gertz was affiliated with the Blind Service Association. The subject file in the Addition series of his papers reflects his involvement with this organization.

#### [LC catalog record](#)

Collection finding aid available in [XML](#) and [PDF](#) format

### **Harris, Patricia (1924-1985)**

Harris served as the secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) (1977-1979) and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (later, Health and Human Services) (1979-1981). Services for persons with disabilities factored into the responsibilities of both agencies, and files on disability issues are included in briefing and subject files in the collection.



#### [LC catalog record](#)

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### **Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Records**

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights included the rights of disabled persons among the issues it monitored, and are reflected in the collection.

#### [LC catalog record](#)

Collection finding aid available in [XML](#) and [PDF](#) format



**Williams, Charl Ormond (1885-1969)**

The papers of Charl Ormond Williams contain documentation of his work in the field of education and educational reform, including employment of the disabled.

[LC catalog record](#)

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### *HISTORY OF MENTAL HEALTH*

**Clark, Kenneth Bancroft (1914-2005)**

Among the subjects included in the papers of author, psychologist, and educator Kenneth B. Clark is the psychological effects of racial discrimination and segregation. Clark's work with his wife, child psychologist Mamie Phipps Clark, with whom he founded the Northside Center for Child Development in New York City, is also represented in the collection.

[LC catalog record](#)

Collection finding aid available in [XML](#) and [PDF](#) format

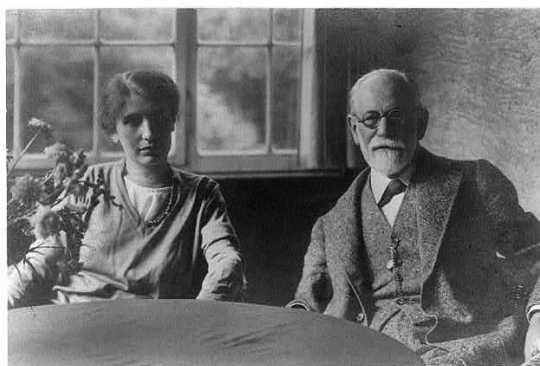
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**Freud, Anna (1895-1982)**

The daughter of Sigmund Freud, Anna Freud was psychoanalyst in the field of child analysis. Her papers include materials related to emotional development, mental health, neuroses, pathological psychology, psychic trauma, psychoanalytic technique, psychological problems, and social development.

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Collection finding aid available in [XML](#) and [PDF](#) format



[Link to image](#) of Anna Freud and Sigmund Freud

**Freud, Sigmund (1856-1939)**

The papers of Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis, document many facets of Freud's life and writings, the evolution of psychoanalytic theory and, the refinement of its clinical technique.

[LC catalog record](#)

Collection finding aid available in [XML](#) and [PDF](#) format

**Kubie, Lawrence S. (1896-1973)**

The papers of physician, psychiatrist, and psychoanalyst Lawrence S. Kubie include materials relating to his career in psychoanalysis

[LC catalog record](#)

Collection finding aid available in [XML](#) and [PDF](#) format

**Murray, John M. (1896-1982)**

John M. Murray's papers document his career in psychiatry and psychoanalysis, relating chiefly to his introduction of psychiatric concepts and training to the American military during his service as chief psychiatrist for the United States Army Air Forces in World War II. His role as a founding member and president of the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, and his work as professor of clinical psychiatry at Boston University School of Medicine are also represented in the collection.

[LC catalog record](#)

Collection finding aid available in [XML](#) and [PDF](#) format

**Niederland, William G. (1904-1993)**

Materials in this collection document William G. Niederland's work in the field of psychoanalysis as an author, educator, and clinician. Beginning in the early 1960s, Niederland developed the concept of the "survivor syndrome" in working with survivors of the Nazi Holocaust. He found that survivors experience unresolved feelings of guilt and grief that lead to depression, anxiety, insomnia, personality change, and hyperamnesia. Niederland also applied psychoanalytic research methods to the study of creativity and the creative process. He noted the frequency of perplexing and often tragic experiences, such as illness or physical disabilities, encountered by creative people during childhood. He found that such experiences enhanced their emotional reactivity and responsiveness to internal and external stimuli.

[LC catalog record](#)

Collection finding aid available in [XML](#) and [PDF](#) format

**Rapaport, David (1911-1960)**

The papers of psychologist and author David Rapaport include his research and writings in the fields of psychology and psychoanalysis, and his association with the Austen Riggs Center in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

[LC catalog record](#)

Collection finding aid available in [XML](#) and [PDF](#) format



**Rogers, Carl R. (1902-1987)**

The collection documents Carl R. Rogers's career as a practicing psychologist and therapist and as an educator and promoter of humanistic psychology in association with the Center for Studies of the Person in La Jolla, California. Rogers is recognized as a prime mover in the development and acceptance of humanistic psychology. His client-centered approach to psychotherapy required the therapist to enter into an intensely empathic relationship with the client and serve as an agent for personality growth and self-determinism. Rogers's application of his therapeutic principles to group settings influenced the "human potential movement," which flourished in the 1960s and 1970s and included encounter groups, leadership training, sensitivity counseling, and assertiveness training. He encouraged the interdisciplinary application of his principles to such fields as education, business, medicine, and pastoral counseling.

[LC catalog record](#)

Collection finding aid available in [XML](#) and [PDF](#) format

### CONGRESSIONAL PAPERS

Congressional and legislative files for the following members of the United States Congress contain files to disability issues. See individual collection finding aids for more information. Researchers may find it useful to keyword search for specific terms associated with disabilities in an historical context, such as "disability," "disabled," "deaf," "blind," "handicapped," "mental health."

**Brooke, Edward William (1919-2015)**

Senator from Massachusetts

[LC catalog record](#)

Collection finding aid available in [XML](#) and [PDF](#) format

[Link to image](#)**Mink, Patsy T. (1927-2002)**

Representative from Hawaii

[LC catalog record](#)

Collection finding aid available in [XML](#) and [PDF](#) format

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**Moynihan, Daniel P. (1927-2003)**

Senator from New York

[LC catalog record](#)

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**Ribicoff, Abraham (1910-1998)**

Representative and senator from Connecticut

[LC catalog record](#)

Collection finding aid available in [XML](#) and [PDF](#) format

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**Taft, Robert A., Jr. (1917-1993)**

Representative and senator from Ohio; grandson of President William Howard Taft and son of  
U.S. Senator Robert Alphonso Taft (1889-1953)

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